

Chapel Theatre Staging Story of Helen Keller

By Betty Schroeder

Chapel Theatre's first production in their new location at 4164 Pacific Coast Hwy. will be one of the most daring and exciting shows ever attempted by the playhouse. Don Gish and Steve Sands co-producers of Chapel Theatre announce that they will present the very dramatic, inspiring and revealing story of Helen Keller as a child, "The Miracle Worker" (which was such a tremendous hit as a Broadway play, and movie) with opening night to be Oct. 19.

This three-act play, written by William Gibson, shows the pathetic life of Helen Keller as she existed before her teacher Annie Sullivan came into her empty existence, void of sight, sound, and speech. As it is revealed in this play, Helen Keller's instincts were animal-

like and her life, until the appearance of her teacher, was nothing but groping uncertainties and bewilderment. Frustrated because of her inability to express herself, in any manner, because of being deaf, mute, and blind since infancy. Helen Keller was beset by emotions unknown to any other human being. Miss Keller—in herself—is a miracle, as she was able to overcome these handicaps, through the laborious teachings of Annie Sullivan, who herself was partially blind, and came into her life to become known as "The Miracle Worker." as this play is so aptly named.

THIS PLAY is inspiring to people in all walks of life as we are made aware of the handicaps that some people unfortunately must cope with throughout their entire lives. The inspiration comes from

the fact that handicapped people do overcome these obstacles and can take their places in life, together with persons who are not afflicted, and do become independent to a great extent.

Such a person was, and is, Helen Keller, who at the age of 80 some years is now able to speak—and in fact, lectures throughout the world to give solace and encouragement to people who need a living inspiration. Helen Keller is a miracle! It is with great humility that the cast and crew of this fabulous production ventures into this difficult pre-

sentation" which will be the most wonderful experience of all—participants and audiences alike.

THIS PLAY has so much meaning to each in the cast, that each feels it not as a role, but as real characters, especially since these characters actually lived.

Don Gish of Palos Verdes, who is directing, stated that this is a most unusual production in that the characters are being portrayed so vividly by this cast, since each person feels his role so definitely. He further states that even though

this play has been in rehearsal some weeks, the cast does not seem to tire of rehearsals and has asked for more than the scheduled amount.

GISH HAS been assisted by Don Harper of Harbor City. Gladys Hanu of Wilmington, technical director, is also playing the role of the mother, Kate Keller. The most difficult roles are being portrayed by 10-year-old Toni Schroeder of Torrance as Helen Keller, and Kathleen Briggs of Manhattan Beach as the teacher Annie Sullivan.

The rest of the cast includes

Ed Gangel of Manhattan Beach as Captain Keller; Noel Shire of Torrance as James; Stella Mroczko of Torrance as Aunt Ev; Frances Tiffin of Torrance as Viney; Denton Wable of Redondo Beach as Mr. Anagnos; Robin Eatherly of Manhattan Beach as Martha; Terry O'Halloran of Torrance as Percy; with Judi Medina of Palos Verdes as the doctor. The blind children include: Joan Liepman of Rolling Hills; Judy Matte of Manhattan Beach; Maureen Moir of Hollywood Riviera; and Cheryl Harper of Torrance.

Reservations are being taken and may be obtained by calling Box Office FR 2-9636 for any of the four weekend performances.

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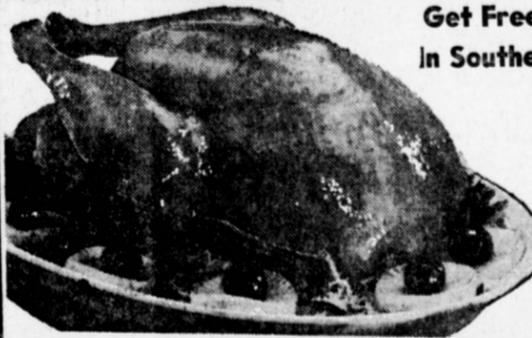
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REHEARSAL . . . Kathleen Briggs, as Annie, and Lori Schroeder, portraying Helen Keller as a child, go over a scene from the forthcoming production of "The Miracle Worker" which will be presented at the Chapel Theatre beginning Oct. 19.

Study of Asian Missions To Begin Here Next Week

The Interdenominational Mission Study for 1962-63, the Christian Mission on the rim of East Asia, will start Wednesday, Oct. 17th at 10 a.m. in the Friendship Room of First Methodist Church.

Because of their own importance and because of the significant Christian work carried on in them, the areas to be studied are Korea, Okinawa, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. All have experienced colonial status in the recent past. Korea found independence restored at the end of World War II but today is divided and a Communist regime is in control of most of the natural resources and industry north of the arbitrary line of division.

OKINAWA'S independence not completely lost until the

Armed Forces

PFC Guillermo Burrola Jr., whose parents live at 1132 W. 254th St., Harbor City, recently participated with other members of the 5th Infantry Division's 77th Armor in a battalion level Army training test at the Desert Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.

In preparation for the test, Burrola, a personnel carrier driver in Headquarters Company of the armor's 2nd Battalion at Fort Irwin, received two months of intensive training designed to perfect individual and unit proficiency in armor tactics adaptable to desert warfare.

latter part of the 19th Century has not been restored. It is now primarily an American Military base, more prosperous than ever before but completely dependent on an alien economy. Taiwan has reverted to the status of a province of China and is facing problems in the difficult adjustments of its own people. Hong Kong, hard hit by war and military occupation, has been flooded with refugees from communist China, bringing tremendous problems in an extremely limited area with meagre natural resources.

The study course will run for four weeks beginning with Korea the first week, Okinawa Oct. 24, Taiwan Oct. 31, and concluding with Hong Kong on Nov. 7.

THE TEXT to be used is "On Asia's Rim" written by Andrew T. Roy who has a background of 33 years of living in the Orient. He has spent two years under the communist government of China and at present is vice president of Chung Chi College in Hong Kong.

The study is under the leadership of Mrs. James McClure, who recently attended the School of Missions of the Methodist Conference in San Diego. She will be assisted by Mrs. Edward Goodell, chairman of the Commissions on Missions, and Mrs. Harlan McCool, secretary of Spiritual Life of the Woman's Society of Christian Service. All ladies of Torrance are invited to attend.



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